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Message Text

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12
ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 ARA-10 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

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P 201011Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDCPRIORITY 4755

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15846

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UR, CU
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV VISIT TO CUBA

REF: A. MOSCOW 15794
B. MOSCOW 15809

1. WE DIRECT DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO REFTEL A, WHICH CONTAINS VISA REQUESTS FOR CRW TRANSPORTING SOVIET GOVERNMENT DELEGATION TO CUBA. DATES GIVE ARE: FIRST ENTRY GANDER-NEW YORK JANUARY 7 AND SECOND ENTRY JANUARY 15.

2. IN VIEW IMPLICATION THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD STOP IN NEW YORK, WE ASKED FEDOSEYEV, USA DIVISION, IF HE COULD SHED ANY LIGHT. HE SAID HE COULD NOT DO SO OFFICIALLY AT THIS POINT, BUT THAT UNOFFICIALLY HE UNDERSTOOD BREZHNEV DELEGATION WOULD BE GOING TO CUBA AROUND JANUARY 15. THEEFORE HE ASSUMED JANUARY 7 FLIGHT WOULD CARRY ADVANCE PARTY. HE KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ANY PLANS FOR DELEGATION TO STOP IN NEW YORK, BUT SAID HE WOULD LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING EMERGES.

3. APPLICATION FOR U.S. VISAS STRIKES US AS UNUSUAL FOR VISIT TO CUBA, ALTHOUGH IT MAY MERELY BE CONTINGENCY MEASURE. NORMALLY, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, PLANE WOULD REFUEL IN GANDER AND OVERFLY U.S. WITHOUT LANDING. HAS DEPARTMENT RECEIVED OVERFLIGHT OR LANDING RQUEST
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FROM SOVIETS?

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4. PRAVDA DECEMBER 20 CARRIES TASS INTERVIEW WITH CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ, WHICH MAY BE THE INTERVIEW (OR A VERSION OF IT) REFERRED TO IN REFTEL B. INTERVIEW STRESSES CLOSE TIES BETWEEN USSR AND CUBA, BUT DOES NOT CONTAIN ANY MENTION OF FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV VISIT. SOMMERLATTE

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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